

REMARKS

Examiner Mackey has rejected the previously amended claims 55 and 57-61 of the present application. For the reasons which follow, applicant respectfully traverses this rejection of the Examiner with regard to claims 55, 57 and 58. The applicant does, however, wish to extend appreciation to Examiner Mackey for the quite detailed review of the claims of the present invention leading to the finding of patentable subject matter of previously amended claims 1-54 and 56 of the present application.

Claims 55 and 57 have been amended to overcome the §112 objection. Support for these changes may be found in the specification, claims and drawings as filed. Claims 55, 57 and 58 are now allowable.

Claims 59-61 have been canceled without prejudice to reinstate.

Claims 1-54 and 56 are allowed.

The Examiner has cited the patents listed in Notice of References Cited as A-J and L and indicated consideration of the prior art cited by the applicants. By the lack of application of these references and others like them within the classes or subclasses searched, the Examiner apparently recognizes the clear patentability of the present invention over any of these references.

Therefore, since the claims of the present application have been shown to include limitations directed to the features of the applicants' methods of manufacturing interconnects which are neither shown, described, taught, nor alluded to in any of the references cited by the Examiner, whether those references are taken singly or in combination, the Examiner is requested to also allow claims 55, 57 and 58, as amended, of the present application and to pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Randall Scott Parker, et al.

Dated: September 5, 2003

By: 

Alan D. Kamrath (Reg. No. 28,227)
RIDER BENNETT, LLP
333 South Seventh Street, Suite 2000
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Tel: (612) 340-8925
Fax: (612) 340-7900